

so known is who knows anything about that gentleman's much better fighting battles than at writing them; and I hope it will impress that fact very strongly on him if he is nominated. Besides, the Democratic Convention will meet first, and if they nominate General Scott, he will have no opportunity to avoid them. But if General Scott, in an authoritative manner, undertakes to put himself on that platform, the defeat that he experiences will be more overwhelming and severe than any he has experienced on any of the Mexican ground, where he has had his trial. I do not believe his chance is very good; at the best, not more than middling. To be sure, he has a good deal of military renown which would help him along; but give him everything—give him all his laurels, and he tal without his feather; but that put on him and his chance is not great; and if with all that he still ventures to step on that platform that moment would be his defeat; it will be hopeless irretrievable.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1852.

THE POSITION OF THE WHIGS.

The Southern Whigs are quite united in their preference for Mr. Fillmore as a candidate for the Presidency; but there is an evident abatement in their zeal. They are less imperative and less decided, and inclined to contemplate the contingency of other nomination, and to find pretenses for supporting it. The Southerners are confident, upon inspection, that they must expect a hard struggle. The adoption of a two-thirds rule would prevent their triumph.

The Democratic managers fear the nomination of Scott, because, if he remains in his present condition, they suppose he will receive the full Whig vote of the North, besides disarming the opposition; if not, conciliating the support of a good many anti-slavery Democrats; while at the same time his military prestige would prove potential with the masses generally.

Will he continue in his present position? Will the Whig Convention, following the precedent of 1848, make no declaration of principles? Will General Scott, if nominated, following in the footsteps of General Taylor, remain silent, with the determination that, if elected at all, he will be elected unencumbered by pledges of any kind? The Washington *Union* is anxious that he should speak out, explicitly and without delay, and, of course, he should if he did not take the ground with it. It respects the Democratic candidate to "keep his powder dry"; so that so illustrious a man, though a political opponent should be dismounered by receiving the Anti-Slavery vote of the North. Some Southern Whigs manifest a similar anxiety—they wish to extinguish him before the meeting of the Convention, so that Fillmore may have no competitor. Other Southern Whigs, anxious for his nomination, because they see in it the sole chance of success for the Whig Party, bear testimony to his soundness on the Compromise, and predict that he will let his opinion be known in due season. Their object, of course, is to reconcile their constituents to a disagreeable thing, and to protect themselves against the "fire in their rear."

General Scott desires to be President; he is good-natured and accessible; avoids, we presume, all points of antagonism and contention in his political intercourse; does not hold himself responsible for people's impressions or reports. *Perhaps* he may write a letter—if he grows indifferent to success. But it is quite possible that he has wisely concluded that, by the above means, he can gain the opinion of his constituents without exposing himself to the risk of being called to account if he did not take the ground in relation to the Compromise and Fugitive Law. He will lose no Southern State that he would otherwise secure, and will retain many Northern States that he would otherwise lose. Indeed, he must know that on Fillmore's platform he could not carry as many States as Mr. Fillmore himself. His prospects at the best are only a little better than those of any candidate whom the Democrats are likely to nominate; so that a declaration by him, or the Convention that may put him in nomination, it is to the Anti-Slavery cause that he will be most serviceable, and will sustain many Northern States that he would otherwise lose. The voters feel that, after all, the true course of action is, to carry their principles to the ballot-box—to vote only for the candidate who shall openly and sincerely stand committed to their support. That is the way to dismouner those of their fellow-voters who have positively declared their purpose to sustain no Party and no Presidential candidate, not known to be committed to the doctrine of Non-Intervention by the Federal Government with Slavery and the Extraterritoriality of Slaves. With reluctance and misgiving, we have no doubt, they have forced themselves to acquiesce in the support of Gen. Scott, provided the Convention that may nominate him will present him to the People unencumbered by any resolve or declaration of opinion; but let the managers presume one step further upon their pliability, and the game is up. These voters would be on board recover the upright position from which they have been temporarily bent.

In our comments upon the old parties we are quite disinterested; for we certainly shall support neither of them, till it assimilate what we hold to be the right position on the Slavery Question; and this neither will do in the approach of canvass. But we do not, therefore, cease to take a deep interest in their movements. One or the other will control the national government, and it shall be the duty of the national organization will exert a strong influence on public opinion and political movements in the States, respectively. If they will not, the best thing we should like to prevent them from doing the worst. True, the more flagrant their violation of sound principle, the more decided would be the independent demonstration proposed by Free-Siders; but the hope of increasing the force of such a demonstration cannot justify us in neglecting any legitimate means to counteract, so far as possible, the pro-slavery tendencies of the party organizations.

THE POSITION OF THE DEMOCRACY.

On the retirement of Major Donelson from the Washington *Union*, it was supposed that the course of that paper in regard to the Finality test would be changed—but this was a mistake. Its policy continues unchanged. It still urges a distinct recognition of the Compromise and Fugitive Law by the Convention about to meet at Baltimore, and the nomination of a candidate openly committed to them. The speech of Mr. King of New York does not seem to have even modified its tone. It finds in it nothing very decided—it understands him to acquiesce in the adjustment measures, and to be favorable to harmony; while his independent resolutions, at variance with it, consider the consequences of his position, it regards as the consequence of the false position in which he had previously placed himself.

We have no doubt that at one time it was in the power of any respectable number of Northern Democrats to have determined the action

of the Baltimore Convention, but we apprehend that time has gone by. While that portion of the party at the North which was in favor of re-uniting its ranks upon any terms, eagerly ratified the Compromise, its opponents contented themselves generally with saying nothing about it, or, when it was urged as a party platform, with a simple expression of dissent. Elsewhere was a resolute stand taken against the interpretation of new tests. And in Congress, while Democratic members from the South were with the Whigs, and demanded non-compliance with it as an impossible alternative to the uniting action of the Democratic members from the North for a long time were either silent or assented. At last Mr. Randolph spoke on the side of freedom. He asserted sound principles, but he failed to indicate what would be his course, or that of those who sympathized with him. Dr. Townsend followed, in a speech in which he maintained the right ground on the Slavery Question, and what was still better, declared plainly that he, and the Democrats who concurred with him in his views, could not sustain the action or nominees of the Baltimore Convention, on the new platform proposed by the Compromisers. Next, a great deal of severe truth was spoken boldly by Mr. Cleveland, but he did not seem proper to announce the principles on which his action in the Presidential canvass would be determined. The same was true of the speeches of Messrs. King and Floyd of New York. They were admirable, so far as they went—they contained sound advice to the Party, intimations of disastrous consequences from the adoption of the new test; but no declaration that, should it be adopted, and a candidate chosen with it, they would be obliged to enter their protest against such a nomination at the ballot-box.

On the one side, we have the Democracy of the North, one portion openly sustaining the Compromise and Fugitive Law, another, opposed to their incorporation into the Party created by the Baltimore Convention, but understood as being willing to submit, should it be overruled; while, on the other, we have the Democracy of the South, united in opposition to the Compromise, uniting in the resolution to maintain the Fugitive Law, a large portion of it, at the same time, being pledged to independent action; should the Convention refuse to adopt the Finality test. On one side, is, on the other, the concession: on the other, a cautious intimation: one section says, "if the other," "Oh, don't." Can it be doubtful? A few days will decide.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN—THE HOMESTEAD BILL.

The *National Intelligencer*, which labored in vain to prevent the passage of the Homestead bill by the House, now appeals to the Senate against what it styles an agrarian measure. Its voice in the 22d instant, appears a long editorial on the subject, and with such considerations as are calculated to alarm the conservatives of that body. We shall notice its main position.

It is to be regretted that the editor should commence the argument by a misstatement of the question.

"In regard to the Public Domain," he says, "two ideas seem to prevail to a considerable extent, which certainly have no foundation in fact or law: first, that the States in which the Public Lands lie, and particularly the new States, have some color of right to dispose of those within their respective limits; and, secondly, that Congress may not only dispose of them, as it has heretofore done, by way of payment for military services, or for the purpose of carrying into effect great public improvements—for the same objects, in a word, as those for which money may be appropriated from the Treasury of the United States—but may give them away capriciously, or in order to be relieved from care or importance respecting them."

This is all right—in accordance with the doctrine taught by Inspiration, that "of one blood God made all the nations of men, to dwell upon all the face of the earth." The policy is a recognition of the absolute right of locomotion and an encouragement to its exercise.

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met him in the social circle and in the social walks of life, without permitting political opinions to interfere. Every gentleman possesses the right, I believe, without arrangement, to regulate his social walks and conversations.

I except that right to my own taste, and suppose that while I differ *ab ovo* from the Senator from New York, the brash had not become *fatal*, as I still was willing to indulge in his opinions, in case of the momentous question of *Slavery*. [Laughter.] In a word, I found the Senator from New York unexpectedly, at an unseasonable hour of the night, so fixed as to keep apart from the rest of us, yet still he could do so through the instrumentality of his friends; and, after a separation from it, we took a drink. Shall he invite us, or equally embarrassing circumstances, will him again. [Laughter.]

The House seemed to relish these researches into private history, even more than political discussions.

[*C*] Somebody sends us a one-dollar bill, from Wilkesville, Ohio, but not a line to tell from whom it comes, or for what.

LETTER NOTICES.

BURGESS'S AMERICAN HISTORIAN in search of Sir John Franklin. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by Frank Taylor, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

In the spring of 1848, three expeditions were sent out by the British Government in search of Sir John Franklin, of whom no tidings had been received since the 26th July, 1845. The first expedition was directed to Lancaster Sound; the second to Baffin's Straits; the third, under the command of Sir John Richardson, to Mackenzie's River. This expedition proceeded overland, its main object being the exploration of the coast between the Mackenzie and Copper Mine rivers, and the shores of Victoria and Wellington Island, lying opposite to Cape Kennedy. It departed from the Thelon on the 1st of July, 1848, and after an absence of nineteen months, having passed in incessant travelling, the commander returned, November 6th, 1849, to England, having failed to obtain any certain information concerning the lost navigator. His explorations were of service, however, to the cause of Science, and the volume in which he has presented their results throws additional light upon the dreary regions he visited.

THE DANE HOUSE.—*The Adventures of a Lone Family in the Wilderness.* By Capt. Mayne Read. Boston: Ticknor, Reed, & Fields. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

The adventures of the Swiss Family Robinson, we presume, suggested the idea of writing the adventures of "The English Family Robinson" in the wilderness. By Capt. Mayne Read. Boston: Ticknor, Reed, & Fields. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C.

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COL. BENTON.——This sterling Democrat has been named by his friends in the St. Louis district, as a candidate for Congress. He has accepted the nomination, and indicates the platform upon which he intends to stand. We make a few short extracts, which we commend to attention.

He despises the Compromises, and the gotters up of it. Proof:

"I do not believe in the Compromises made by the South, but am now stuck to that position."

"I am not of the best, some think most decided, platform speaker in the country. He spoke with unusual eloquence and power. He is liberal-minded, and his speeches are remarkable for so much character. While referring to his address, I could not but lament that he made no reference to American Slavery, which would have thought was naturally suggested by him."

"He is one of the best speakers, reading again to his audience, it reflects but little on its deleterious influence. Such a man ought to be anti-slavery, as he is."

Heath, etc., decided and-devil.

PROFESSOR LIDDOOR RYS, of the University of Ghent.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE, May, 1852. Published and sold as above.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH FOR May contains an instructive article on Gold, its natural and civil history; biographical sketches of Niebuhr and Tom Moore, besides its usual entertainment, and Tory politics.

PUBLIC SCHOOL DEMONSTRATION IN WASHINGTON, TON.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, in a letter dated the 20th, thus notices the recent school demonstration in this place:

"A very beautiful ceremony took place this noon at the Capitol. Two thousand five hundred children, boys and girls, handily dressed in white, and a band of music marched in solemn procession to the Capitol, where Mayor Lenox, in their and their parents' and guardians' names, and the Hon. Mr. Howard, of the Senate, and to the Hon. Mr. Gilmer, of the House, a petition signed by nine thousand citizens, for an appropriation of public funds for the use of the public schools in the District of Columbia."

We take pleasure in saying to such of our readers as may reside in this city, or who may temporarily reside here, as members of Congress or otherwise, and who have daughters to educate, that the Rev. Dr. Cushman has, on Indiana avenue, in a most pleasant and healthful part of Washington, a seminary for girls, where his long experience and ripe scholarship, aided by competent Protestant teachers, can be secured. His seminary offers all the advantages of thorough training and a neighborly residence. Mrs. Cushman, who is a neighbor of ours, is worthy of all confidence of parents; and under her watchful care every young girl is sure of sympathy, affection, and maternal tenderness.

It will be of use to our advertising columns that Mr. Charles Whitney proposes to give a series of Oratorical Entertainments in this city, commencing on Friday evening next.

Mr. Whitney's impersonations of American, British, Irish, and Indian orators are highly recommended by the European and American press.

A SLIP-KNOT.—We have heard it stated that a Circular Letter has been addressed to the Presidential candidates, by Mr. Scott of Virginia, asking each one, whether, if elected, he will veto a bill for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, should such a measure be submitted to him.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON, May 10, 1852.

To the Editor of the *National Era*:

I ask the favor of your columns for publication of the annexed poem. It is translated from German by the spiritual Charles Lander, Exeter, New Hampshire, and is based upon his "Notes to the Poem." The original of this production is written by Ferdinand Freiligrath, the great exiled poet of Germany, to Mr. Weydeeyer, in New York, the latter having, it is believed, probably joined the wide-spread revolutionary German, in the eyes of an American public, from the charge of being considered synonymous with that humbug of different character lately got up in the United States, and in consequence thereof, to lose reputation with the exposure and falling of the fast gods.

The most of the allusions will be patent to the American reader.

Great destruction, more than any other, is power with sons of literary, shadowing politicians, phrase-democrats, who destroy the movement on which they live.

Nobly did the exiled, sympathetic poet depict these men, that do not scruple to heap up the negro slaves, and then in other places upbore negro slavery. He will not have the cause of Freedom disgraced by degrading her, in appearance, to a sort of beggar importunity.

Very respectfully yours,

A. C.

FREILIGRATH'S NEW POEM.

I.

You say, the muse must spur rapid flight,
Hot Pegasus—nour long tarry idling,
Till at your door the winged sted alights.

The Muse, like Nature, is a spirit of the living,
Ais! Friend! friend and editor!" as writes

Roge to Horne, for swaddling and for bridling;

Although unencountered yet the way-horse is

Sad times these latter are for gallant comrade.

II.

Plainly to speak—the gods have reached your ears,
When nightshadows on Parthenon with Parche—

The mighty now commands Empires his peers;

And to the world's heart, like a tempestuous gale,

The crimson May, his meteorous years

Have murdered in thy mother's panting breast,

Expect no song from me at such a time—

Deeds, and not words, avenge unquenched orname-

III.

All least no song of bold prophetic strain,
Such as I could, forsworn forty-eight—

As 't were in forty-eight, a prophet's curse—

Red hand, he pinched down the tyrant's state—
Nor such as I commanded, with warning vain,

When congearing peoples stood with joy elate,

Timing their march to epic cold and stern,

Forstelling the rouser's sun return.

IV.

Ah! as though, as now, before my eyes,

When silent in my study lie,

Fall many shadows on the fainting face,

As the dark soul sinks into gloom from grace,

The household spirits peers through with anxious eyes,

And whispers fitful words of coming fate.

But think not on those ill my shall; half—

In times so strange, even bards may be at fault.

V.

As I feel it, therein I am vain—

I should not be of propulsive sway,

Or strip the prodded, to make room for air,

Or strip the prodded, to make room for air,

Or strip the prodded, to make room for air,

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